Portable solar power plant

871. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2797 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th December 1985 and state:

(a) whether the operation and other costs of portable solar power plants developed by Indian and Soviet scientists have since been examined; and

(b) if so, what is the possibility of their being put into commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The available operating data in the small unit built laboratory conditions is being analysed. A review meeting of Indian Scientists concerned is being held on the 10th March 1986 followed by a joint meeting of Indian and USSR Scientists to decide on the future course of development.

Price hike of petroleum products

872. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN:
SHRI F. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a country-wide strong dissatisfaction amongst all the sections of people due to price-hike in kerosene, diesel, petrol and all other petroleum products by Government;

(b) what are the reasons for increasing the prices of petrol and petroleum products;

(c) whether Government propose to bring down the prices of petroleum and its products to the level as it was before the recent increase; and

(d) whether Government propose to further reduce the prices of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (d) The main reasons for increasing prices were the need to raise additional resources for the plan and contain the rapid growth in the consumption of the petroleum products and curtail the value of imports. Taking into account the popular sentiment in this regard, the prices were reduced with effect from 6-2-86.

Periodical survey for supply of cooking gas

873. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any periodical survey is being conducted in order to find out the causes for the delay in supplying cooking gas cylinders to consumers in the country by the distributors in the past;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the survey;

(c) if no, whether Government propose to conduct survey in the near future in order to identify the reasons for delay in supply of cooking gas to consumers;

(d) how many complaints have been received in the past three years about delay in supply of gas cylinders, year-wise and State-wise figures; and

(e) whether there is an increase in the number of complaints and the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.